

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 40, 43-45, and 50 as follows:

40. (Amended) A method for automatic information collecting by an electronic intermediary comprising:

connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to an information provider;

collecting electronically information from said information provider;

processing electronically the information collected electronically from said information provider to obtain processed information; and

preparing electronically an electronic information report using the processed information.

43. (Amended) An apparatus as in claim 42, wherein said form is an IRS Form W-2.

C2 84. (Amended) An apparatus as in claim 42, wherein said form is an IRS Form 1099.

9 45. (Amended) An apparatus as in claim 42, wherein said form is an IRS Form 1098.

50. (Amended) A method for automatic tax collecting by an electronic intermediary comprising:

connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;

collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider, wherein said tax data is reported on an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), state, local, or foreign tax form;